

The Indianapolis Times

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No law shall be passed restraining the free interchange of thought and opinion, or restricting the right to speak, write or print freely, on any subject whatever.—Constitution of Indiana.

The Outstanding Issue

Unfortunately the progress of the Dearth impeachment trial before the Senate has taken on phases which may distract attention from the chief issue in that matter.

The people not only of Indiana but of the Nation are much interested in the question of the freedom of the press and just what the constitutional guarantee of that liberty may mean.

The defense that the judge has a good reputation and the prompt response of the House of Representatives that his reputation is bad may be interesting but not conclusive as to this issue.

Men with very good reputations might conceivably overstep the Constitution and men with bad reputations as reputations go, might be the most ardent defenders of the fundamental principles of liberty.

The liberty of the press is presumably limited only by the laws of libel.

Those who print and publish are guaranteed the right to print the truth. Those who print falsehoods or use the printed word to maliciously slander must pay the penalties provided by law.

But the law, in its guardianship of this right, has set up the machinery by which those who are injured by falsehoods, libels and slanders may obtain redress and those who abuse the privilege of the press may be punished.

The law carefully guards reputations from attack and from falsehoods, but the law also provides protection for those who print truths concerning public matters.

The charge made by the House of Representatives is that the constitutional guarantee of freedom of the press becomes farcical and a nullity if the publications may be seized by those in power and officials may use their official power to suppress any manner.

If it be possible for one judge to use his powers to suppress one paper, no matter how small, other judges might with the same right suppress any paper, no matter how great its circulation or its magnitude.

Possibly judges may have such a right. Perhaps the laws of Indiana may give this power to a judge. Perhaps the remedy is to choose judges and other officials whose minds may run in even grooves with all publications and thus prevent any invasion of the right to print.

We may have arrived at that stage of public affairs where censorship is necessary and where the old laws of libel are insufficient to protect the public from the printed word.

We may have reached the stage where public welfare demands that judges may order any newspaper, magazine, movie title or pamphlet withheld from public distribution until he decides that it is safe for public consideration.

That was the issue raised by the House of Representatives in its charge of impeachment.

Upon that issue the evidence has been practically uniform from witnesses for both the House managers and the defense.

And it is upon that issue that public attention centers and is concerned.

Is there really such a thing as freedom of the press? And if there is, what is it?

Socialism—Or What?

The socialistic doctrine of yesterday is the mainstay of tomorrow's conservatives; the man who was a radical in the gay nineties finds himself classed as a toady in the year 1927.

It wasn't so long ago that a man could have the department of justice casting eyes upon him simply by suggesting, publicly, that our coal mines ought to be owned by the Government.

But today? Well, the current issue of the Magazine of Wall Street has a lengthy article discussing that very question—and the article is highly sympathetic toward the proposal!

In this article it is stated that not only the coal miners, but the mine operators as well, would welcome Government ownership of the coal mines.

And this is a publication by, of and for Wall Street!

The article goes into the coal mining situation thoroughly. It shows that during the twenty years between 1905 and 1925, there was only one year in which there were less than 25,000 coal miners on strike at one time or another. It asserts that these long-drawn-out disputes have resulted in victory for neither side and that neither side nowadays really expects victory.

In fact, the whole tone of this Wall Street article is favorable to the Government ownership proposal.

It would take altogether too much space to discuss Government ownership intelligently here. The point we are trying to make is this: Our social and economic creeds are changing faster than we realized.

Twenty years ago—even ten years ago—Wall Street would have thrown up its hands in horror at a Government ownership proposition for the soft coal industry. Now we find a Wall Street publication, representing Wall Street's inner circle, discussing the question without a tremor.

Verily, times do change!

The Coal Strike

When people get caught between forces which they are powerless to control and which lead them to destruction we call it human tragedy.

By that token, the bituminous coal strike, scheduled to start tomorrow in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois, will be a human tragedy.

It's the result of a combination of forces which neither the miners nor the operators can control, and yet which lead them into destructive industrial warfare.

The members of the United Mine Workers who will be fighting for the maintenance of their present wage level, about \$7.50 a day for eight hours of dangerous and dirty work.

And a visit to the scene of such a disaster as that in Pennsylvania yesterday will drive the conclusion home with ghastly vividness.

The operators, however, are choosing to enter a fight to the finish, with all of the attendant loss from plant idleness, from shifting of customers, etc., rather than meet that demand.

Is it because the operators are an avaricious and selfish crew? It is not.

Although there are few philanthropists in the

THE INDIANAPOLIS TIMES

TRACY

What Will Be Al Smith's Stand on Dry Amendment?

By M. E. Tracy

Borah predicts that Smith will be nominated by the Democrats in 1928, that he will come out for the Eighteenth amendment and make his followers like it.

This is something else for the New York Governor to clear up. No matter what position he intends to take, it won't do to have a prominent Republican leader put such words in his mouth.

Governor Smith has been rather silent on the liquor question of late, and not a few people are wondering what it means, if anything. At all events, they would like to hear from him.

Incidentally they would like to hear from him with regard to some other matters, such as the religious issue, the foreign policy and the farm relief.

Governor Smith has been busy with State affairs, of course, and is to be respected for not letting politics interfere with his duty.

As a general proposition, candidates talk too early and too much, but it often occurs that one is misunderstood and loses ground by remaining silent too long.

China and 'Reds'

Bolshevism is a paper doctrine with the Chinese, but anti-foreign sentiment is real. It crops out not only as an age-old tradition but as an argument that China can't be free so long as foreigners remain.

England has more at stake than any other nation, for she has gone further in demanding special privileges and concessions. She stands to lose not only all she has gained from China, but perhaps, her grip on India and other Asiatic territory as well.

And there the struggle will be the result of competitive forces which neither the miners nor the operators are powerful enough to control.

They are victims of a larger industrial warfare which the strike holds no promise of bringing to an end.

Sand Lot Radio

One suggestion considered by the radio conference in Washington is the practical elimination of amateur broadcasting.

That would be as sensible as abolishing sandlot baseball, with the idea of improving the game!

Hope for the Crippled

One of the problems of this efficient industrial age of ours is the placing of physically afflicted men in jobs where they can support themselves.

The man with poor eyes, a bad leg or a twisted hand is frightfully handicapped nowadays. But there is a ray of hope in a report from the Welfare Council of New York City.

This report shows that employers are more and more finding that physically handicapped men can be very useful employees. The Ford Motor Co., the very home of efficiency, employs no less than 13,000 men who are physically below normal.

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Honor for the Gobs

In reading the dispatches from China, it is no more than right that we all try to keep clear in our minds the distinction between this country's sailors and its marines.

All too often, foreign correspondents fail to distinguish between these two separate services, but lump the activities of both together under the name "marines."

The dreams that guided him while he was poor are still with him.

It doesn't make a great deal of difference, perhaps. But the marines have honor enough in the public mind already; let's just remember that the ordinary, "every day gob" is doing his share, too.

Has work on the Coolidge dam across the Gila River in Arizona been started?

A new York woman on her 102d birthday had a party and 230 young fellows of 60 or more attended. Can't the police do something about this flaming youth?

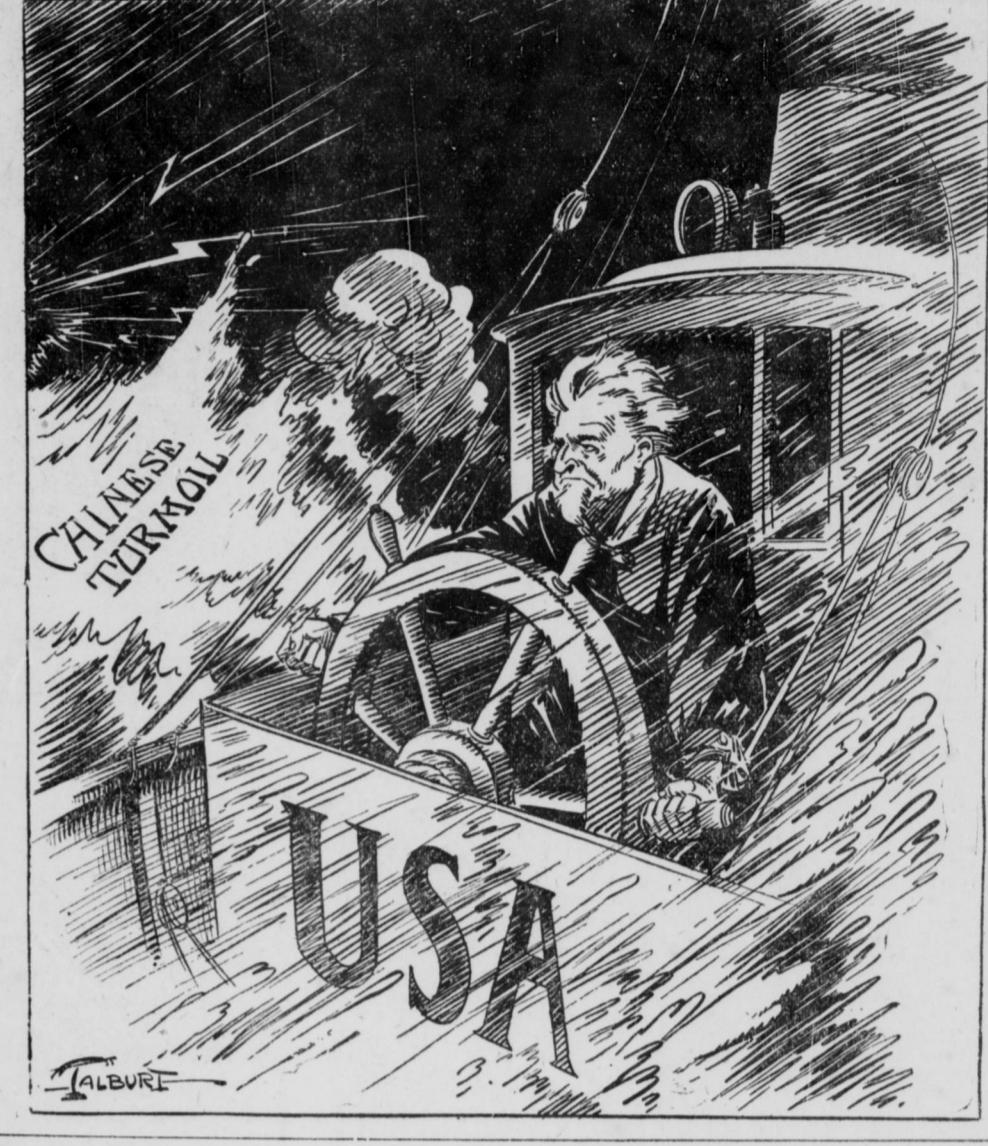
What State leads in the production of coal and petroleum?

Pennsylvania leads in the production of coal and California in the production of petroleum.

Can't somebody introduce the Slow Clubs to China?

A London chimney-sweep has turned novelist. It is said the young man has a sweeping style.

Where a Cool Head and a Steady Hand Are Needed!



Here Is a Picture of Berkell's Most Successful Theatrical "Family"



Charles Berkell and His Stock Players at English's

By Walter D. Hickman

Here is the picture of the Berkell Players that many people have been waiting for since the stock season opened at English's.

The Berkell Players had no sooner arrived in the city than many of their friends called me by telephone and suggested that the Times photographer take a picture which would include every member.

Wanting to oblige the readers of this department, I called Bill Hull and asked him if it would be possible to get the picture.

Hull, being very modest, stated that as much as he avoided publicity he would consent not only to have the entire company stand for a photograph, but that he too would face the camera.

Shortly afterwards, the Times photographer was snapping the company in front of the theater. And the picture shows that this is one of the happiest theatrical families in the world.

You can find your favorite as follows, left to right: Tom Pawley, a new member of the company; Larry Sullivan, who needs no introduction; Robert St. Clair, who has a loyal theatrical following; Miss Jean Oliver, leading woman; Charles Berkell, owner of the enterprise which bears his name; Edna Wallace, recruited from the Little Theatre; James Ryan, a stage name of a local player; Milton Byron, leading man with cap in hand and his best smile; Bernice Marsolais, in private life the wife of William V. Hull; J. F. Marlow, who is well known here; Isabelle Arnold who is never too tired to put energy and pep into all of her characterizations; Mildred Hastings, long ago established herself as a favorite and Herbert Dobbins, who admits that he generally has to play all of the old grouch roles.

All members in this picture are appearing in "If I Was Rich," the opening bill of the stock season at English's this week.

Milton Byron and his wife have taken a cottage for the summer in the northern part of the city.

"I know that it is a sleeper jump out to that house but it is just the place I want for the summer," Byron states.

Among the hotel cliff dwellers are Miss Oliver, the Sullivans, Robert St. Clair and Herbert Dobbins.

"Yes, the wife and myself are in the same hotel and the same room we had last season," Dobbins told me.

The Hulls have gone flat hunting and they soon will be in a big apartment hotel in the north part of the city.

Mr. Berkell stays at an uptown hotel because Mrs. Berkell, who has been ill for many months, is in a sanitarium at Martinsville. Each day Mr. Berkell motors to see his wife.

And now, my Berkell fans, I hope the picture and the story is just what you wanted.

NEW BILL OPENS TODAY AT THE PALACE

The headline attraction on the new bill opening today at the Palace is the opening of the "Woodrow Wilson Foundation."

It is an organization established in recognition of the national and international services of Woodrow Wilson, twice President of the United States, who furthered the cause of humanity and was instrumental in pointing out effective methods for the cooperation of the liberal forces of mankind throughout the world. Its object is to endow permanent awards for distinguished public service.

The awards are to be given for educational purposes in the United States.

It is estimated that \$1,000,000 is spent yearly for educational purposes in the United States, divided approximately as follows: \$650,000 for grade schools, \$150,000 for high schools, \$100,000 for public high schools, \$15,000,000 for normal schools and \$25,000,000 for church schools and colleges.

How much is spent annually on education in the United States?